The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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FEDERAL RETIREMENT PASSED BY CONGRESS

Washington, May 22.—The house and senate having adjusted differ over the Sterling-Lehlbach retirement bill and the first legislation of this character that ever passed congress is now before the president for his signature.

The bill provides for the retirement of employes in the classified civil service of the government who have reached the age of 70. Mechanics, city and rural letter carriers and post office clerks shall be eligible for retirement at 65, and railway postal clerks at 62. All employes must be in the service at least 15 years to be eligible for retirement benefits.

The amount of annuity that a retired employe shall receive will be based on length of service and his average basic salary. In no case shall the annuity exceed $720 a year or be less than $180 a year. Employes will be required to contribute monthly 2½ per cent of their basic salaries. This will total about 23 per cent of the fund. The government will contribute the remainder. It is believed that the employes' contributions alone will finance the fund for several years.

PROFITEERING IN CLOTHES.

Washington, May 22.—When a man pays $65 for a suit of clothes these days, he is handing over a profit of $27.64 to the retailer, according to W. Jett Lauck, former secretary of the national war labor board and consulting economist for railroad employes in their wage movement before the railroad labor board.

"At the present time," said Mr. Lauck, "the labor cost in producing a suit of clothes is only 20 per cent of the price taken from the consumer, while 10 years ago the price ncluded a bill of 22 per cent to bor. So, it readily can be seen hat the buyer of a suit of clothes is aying those who labored on the roduct less, proportionately, than 1910.

"Although the retailer's increases have been huge in a monetary sense, they are much less proportionately than those of the manufacturing corporations. Woolen mills' profits for the present year will approximate five times those taken in 1910, while the garment manufacturers' profits at the present time are 350 per cent of their 1910 average."

It is shown that the largest woolen manufacturing concern in America increased its annual net income from an average of $1,600,000 in the pre-war years to an annual average of nearly $9,000,000 during 1916-18.

One of the largest clothing houses in the country increased its profits from an average of $859,219 in 1912-14 to $1,625,593 in 1916-18, and $2,200,219 in 1919.

HAVE BAD HEADACHE.

Spokane, May 22.—To use a figure of speech members of the Employers' association have a bad headache as a result of their extensive anti-trade union campaign in this city.

The bosses started out to establish the non-union shop, which they called "the American plan." The workers showed they are good Americans by standing together, and they now present this 1,000 per cent batting average:

Stationary engineers enforced their scale, transfer employers abandoned their non-union shop demand and signed with the Teamsters' union, every construction job in the city is union, bakers secured new contract and the culinary crafts lost but one small house when they establish new rates on May 1.

"No unions are on strike," says the Labor World. "The bottlers will be granted their increase. The butchers are making splendid progress in the signing of their contract, and all in all the movement is in fine shape, notwithstanding that the attempt to establish the non-union shop cost the Employers' association a lot of money for advertisements that were untruthful and malicious."

BOSSES' UNION WORSTED.

Bend, Ore., May 22.—The timber companies' "union," known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, was indiscreet enough to permit one of its representatives to debate in this city with Harry W. Call, of the International Union of Timber Workers.

The trade unionist showed that the legion stands for the non-union shop, that the legion did not get the eight-hour day, which it claims, and that where it is in control wage rates are lower than where trade union conditions prevail. The legion has been voted out of this place by the timber workers, and Call's opponent said 90 per cent of the men who so voted are aliens. This statement was received with hoots.

STRIKERS AND PROFITEERS.

Baltimore, May 22.—The American economic league makes this statement in its press service that is worth remembering:

"Some editors, probably not so innocent as they pretend, talk as though they honestly believe a striking laborer to be in the same class with a profiteering landlord. Not for their enlightenment, but to deprive them of the opportunity to pretend ignorance, let it be explained that there is a fundamental difference between the two. The striking laborer is trying to retain a greater share of what he earns. The profiteering landlord is trying to get more of what others earn."

BIG COTTON MILL PROFITS.

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"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAWS IS ANCIENT SCHEME

Washington, May 22.—Officers of the A. F. of L. are compiling some of the numberless "can't-strike" laws passed centuries ago.

Defenders of the Kansas "can't-strike" law refer to it as a new thing, and Governor Allen of that state is hailed as the modern Solomon, but in the light of history these claims are unworthy of consideration.

Nearly 600 years ago English labor laws were identical with the present Kansas act. The English law empowered the 'lord's court' to set wages and punish strikers. The Kansas act gives this power to a modern "lord's court" of three men, appointed by the governor.

Under the English law the lord had the first claim to the labor of his serfs; those who declined to work for him were sent to jail.

Lords of the manor (land owners) who paid more than the customary wage were fined treble damages, and artifices (craftsmen) were subject to the same penalty. Any excess of wages above the customary rate could be seized for the king's use. The law not only regulated wages, but also food prices, and it was declared that "food must be sold at reasonable prices." Imprisonment was the penalty against any laborer who quit his employment before the agreed time, and alms to any able-bodied laborer were forbidden.

Every student of history knows the result of this legislation under King Edward in 1347.

MINERS' HOUSING IS BAD

Washington, May 22.—An uninviting picture of company mining towns is shown by Leifer Magnuson, in his report on this subject, published in the Monthly Labor Review of the United States bureau of labor statistics.

"The average company mining town," he says, "has few of the amenities of ordinary life. There is a dull uniformity in the appearance of the houses and an absence of trees and natural vegetation. Streets and alleys are open dirt roads almost without exception. Sidewalks are very rare.

"The miner's house is without the ordinary inside conveniences found in the house of the city worker. Less than 2 per cent of the homes in the bituminous coal regions have inside toilets, and running water is rare. Stoves and grates are depended upon for heating.

"The average house of the miner includes about four rooms, in which he must accommodate a family and frequently takes in boarders when there is a housing shortage.

"The desirability of locating the houses near to the mines has frequently been secured at the sacrifice of conditions of health and comfort; thus in the coking region the houses are found placed on neighboring hillsides which have been rendered barren by the gases of the bee hive ovens."

OUIJA BOARD AT WORK.

Tacoma, Wash., May 22.—The ouija board of United States Senator Poindexter was in fine fettle during the law maker's oration to business men in this city. Things are in had shape, according to the speaker. Sinister forces are at work and our constitutional form of government, backed by 100,000,000 people hangs by a single thread; revolutionists are among the workers and occupy seats of the mighty; the union shop is a menace; workers should be independent, etc.

The speaker favors legislation that will stop (?) strikes. Incidentally he is a candidate for the presidency. He indicated to Tacoma business men that if elected he'll show all divers and sundry agitators where to head in.

The speech ought to assure his campaign managers substantial contributions.

WOMEN CAN'T WORK NIGHTS.

Albany, N. Y., May 22.—Governor Smith has vetoed a bill which would remove restrictions against women being employed at night in printing or publishing establishments.

"I regard this proposed enactment," said the governor, "as a distinctly backward step for the state of New York to take at a time when there is international recognition of prohibition of night work for women as a health measure. If we exempt printing establishments this year we will be urged to exempt some other establishments next year, and gradually the statute will be weakened so as to make it useless."

CO-OP. BUILDING PLAN.

London, England, May 22.—The guild system of building houses, first introduced at Manchester, is being discussed by building craftsmen. It is proposed to establish a building guild in this city and a draft prospectus has been forwarded to all district branches of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives for approval. If the plan is favored an attempt will be made to build houses under the direct control of the council, which would accept the schemes and arrange for an adequate supply of labor. The guild plan is on the co-operative basis and eliminates contractors and master builders.

UNIONS PROTECT TRADE.

Fargo, N. Dak., May 22.—In arbitrating a wage dispute between the Carpenters' union and contractors, Judge A. T. Cole ruled that the Carpenters' union should be given the first preference by the contractors in the employment of men. The arbitrator said that this would be "a matter of fair protection to the carpenter's trade." Judge Cole raised rates to 90 cents an hour.

COAL OWNERS IN CLOVER.

London, England, May 22.—Officers of the Miners' Federation say that the increased prices charged by coal owners for exported coal is more than enough to meet recent wage advances to the miners.

BUTCHER WORKMEN GAIN.

Louisville, Ky., May 22.—A union-shop agreement, increased wages and improved working conditions in three large plants in this city have been secured by Butcher Workmen's union No. 227.

MEAT CUTTERS WIN.

Omaha, May 22.—Organized meat cutters have established union shop conditions in nearly every meat market in this city.

Unemployment Losses Far In Lead Of Strike Losses

Washington, May 22.—Losses through strikes "are relatively unimportant, as compared with the losses from unemployment of the regular, orthodox, undramatic type that doesn't get any newspaper advertising," said Dr. Royal Meeker, commissioner United States bureau of labor statistics, in a recent speech that is published in the current issue of the Monthly Labor Review, issued by the bureau.

"The cost of strikes is commonly displayed as losses of wages to the strikers, loss of profits to the employers, and loss of interest on capital invested. These estimates are necessarily crude and often misleading. It sometimes happens in a big strike that the curtailment of production results in such a sharp advance in the price of the product that the employer makes not a loss but a net gain. In such a case idle capital earns more for the owners than busy capital.

"It would be more accurate to calculate the material losses of a strike in terms of product unproduced and then allocate the losses between the several parties at interest, taking account of changes in prices and wage rates in the industry.

"Strikes and lockouts have contributed their thousands to the ranks of the out-of-work workers, but irregularities and failure in supplies of raw materials, transportation and demand for commodities produced, and lack of proper organization in industry, have contributed their millions.

"No statistical statement is possible, for no accurate information exists as to the time lost by reason of strikes, to say nothing of our almost 100 per cent of ignorance of the time lost due to other causes. We do know, in a general way, that unemployment has existed during prosperous conditions of industry to an appalling degree.

"For years the states of Massachusetts and New York published figures showing percentage of unemployment among trade union members in those states. In Massachusetts the unemployment percentage among unionists rises to 17.9 per cent in 1914, while the minimum at any time since 1908 was 3 per cent in 1918. The unemployment percentage is even greater in New York state. The percentage of unemployment among non-union workers is always higher than among union members. This was especially true of the United States before the war, when it was the deliberate policy of the largest employers of labor, especially unskilled or semi-skilled labor, to keep on tap as it were, a large reserve force of labor upon which to draw in case of strike or any emergency requiring additional men.

"No definite statistical information exists, but from a study of such strikes as have come to my attention, I am convinced that strikes today, as always, are insignificant in causing stoppage of work in comparison with unemployment due to dearth of raw materials, lack of orders for output, insufficient transportation, lack of a properly balanced organization, lack of an intelligent employment policy for handling men, failure to gain and keep the good will of employes, failure to make use of the tremendous latent creative force lying dormant in the workers.

"The cost of this most costly and destructive of all industrial hazards, unemployment, is appalling. Its money cost, reckoned in terms of product unproduced, services unrendered and capital goods lost or deteriorated in value, I estimate, or guess, would amount to more than half of the value of the yearly product of all our industries. This means that we are operating our industries on a 66 2-3 per cent efficiency basis and are losing, by not producing, something like $35,000,000,000 a year, just because we have not yet recognized that ignorance, however blissful, is mighty expensive."

Commissioner Meeker's statement on strikes and their losses, as compared with the greater losses through unemployment, is similar to a recent statement by Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, surgeon general United States public health service, who showed that strike losses were trifling as compared with the staggering losses to this country through preventable diseases.

The medical man stated that the average mortality from typhoid fever is 13,000 a year and that one death corresponds to from 400 to 500 sick days. In 1918 there were 150,000 deaths from tuberculosis, with each death representing 500 sick days. There are 7,000,000 cases of malaria fever annually, with a loss of several days in each case. In 1918 there were 290,000 deaths from pneumonia, with each death representing 125 sick days.

HEATED ACCUSATIONS DON'T UNLOCK PRISON

Ottawa, Ontario, May 22.—Heated accusations and blatant threats are not helpful in liberating several workers who are serving prison sentences in connection with the recent Winnipeg general strike, says President Tom Moore and associate officers of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Officials of the congress show the work that is being done to secure the release of these strikers, who were convicted under the seditious conspiracy law. The bona fide trade unionists are attempting to have this law amended on the ground that it is "too vague in its definition and possible of such wide application as to practically make impossible any organized activity for the betterment of social and economic conditions."

The trade unionists say they are convinced that the convicted men were not indicted simply because they were strike leaders as most of them held minor positions on the strike committee, and many others who were far more responsible for the direction of the strike were not interfered with.

It is declared that the one big union advocates who called the strike are using the present situation for propaganda purposes.

The trade unionists declare for the upholding of constitutional authority, and as the law has been vindicated a review of the whole matter, with a view to the exercise of clemency towards the convicted men, would show a spirit of generosity in keeping with the times. The trade unionists announce they propose to work along these lines.

"We feel confident," it is stated, "that the members of the trade union movement will continue to loyally support our efforts in this direction."

The Winnipeg trades and labor council has withdrawn from the defense committee that assumed charge of the defense of the convicted men. The Winnipeg unionists refuse to be identified with the one big union theorists and are now distributing monies for the relief of the families of the imprisoned men. Donations to this fund should be forwarded to E. Robinson, room 1, labor temple, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

PACKERS' WAR PROFITS BIG.

Washington, May 22.—In a special report by the federal trade commission it is stated that in the first three years of the war profits of the big meat packers "doubled, trebled and quadrupled."

It is shown that the average annual profits of the "big five" packers—Armour, Swift, Wilson, Cudahy and Morris—were $59,500,000 from 1912 to 1914. These profits jumped to an average of $192,000,000 during 1915 to 1917.

The packers' persistent claim that their profits amount to "only 2 or 3 cents per dollar on sales," is not based, the commission declares, on accepted methods of determining costs.

"Rate on investment, not rate on sales, furnishes the correct method whereby the reasonableness of profits may be obtained," says the report.

"The whole accounting system of the packers must be revised before dependable figures can be found showing costs and profits by specific products, or even for the business as a whole."

WOULD WATCH STRIKE VOTE.

London, England, May 22.—Organized labor is opposing the trade union ballot bill, now pending in parliament. Friends of the bill say there should be an "impartial" representative of the government present when a strike vote is taken by trade unionists. A local labor correspondent replies:

"It will be observed that no suggestion is made that 'impartial public officials' should be present when employers decide on a lockout, or when a body of capitalists meet to fix food prices. Surely a worker has as much right to be trusted to decide by vote on a strike as an employer has on a lockout—decisions equally vital to the interests of the community."

WANT UNION SHOP.

Jackson, Mich., May 22.—Plumbing contractors have a snug organization of their own, and their employes are on strike to secure recognition of their trade union. The contractors do not believe in organization in this case and favor individual bargaining. They attempt to camouflage their refusal to bargain collectively by pleas for "independent" workmen.

LABOR EDITORS TO MEET.

Washington, May 22.—The seventh annual convention of the International Labor Press of America will be held in Montreal beginning June 6. Matthew Wall is president of this organization of bona fide labor editors, and R. E. Woodmansee, editor of the Illinois Tradesman, Springfield, Ill., is secretary-treasurer.

TEAMSTERS WANT MORE.

Butte, Mont., May 22.—Teamsters in this city are asking that wages be advanced $1 a day.

LET MERCHANTS' LAW BE LAW OF THE LAND

New York, May 22.—The solution of the trust question is "the law of merchants is the law of the land," according to a leading article published in the Annalist, a recognized financial authority. This publication circulates among citizens who see red and "class" government because of the A. F. of L. non-partisan political policy.

The article refers to the recent contradictory decisions of the United States supreme court in the steel trust and the Reading coal cases, and the writer asks: "What shall guide business when courts dispute law?"

"The time is ripe," he declares, "for such a discovery of the law of merchants as was made by Lord Mansfield for England, centuries ago.

"Before his time the law merchant was a law peculiar to merchants, created by their customs and administered by them, very much as our stock exchange now administers its own discipline. British merchants did not like lawyers and went into court with reluctance. The merchants knew what they could or could not do, and what they ought or ought not to do, better than the lawyers could tell them, and the law came to them for instruction more than for punishment.

"Justice Mansfield — England's John Marshall—consorted with merchants, summoned them into court as its 'friends,' learned their habits and customs and their reasons, and administered them as the law of the land. From his time dates the maxim 'the law of merchants is the law of the land.' That is the basis of the rule of reason."

The "rule of reason," referred to by the writer was announced by the United States supreme court in 1911 in the steel and tobacco trusts' cases. At that time the court held in effect, that the anti-trust laws should be enforced with reason and not rigidly.

NO ONE DEFENDED ALLEN.

Salina, Kan., May 22.—Governor Allen of this state may be received with wild huzzas in the east when he tells how he "stopped strikes," but if he attended the annual convention of his state federation of labor in his own state a different story would be told.

Practically every one of the 200 delegates took a fling at the governor's "can't-strike" law. These workers unanimously condemned this legislation and called on the people of Kansas to end the governor's political career.

Alexander Howat, president of the Kansas miners, and who was imprisoned because he refused to recognize the law, addressed the delegates and other citizens at a large mass meeting. The unionist flayed the law and ridiculed the governor, who was notified that workers will not surrender their right to suspend work as a final protest against unbearable conditions.

The convention elected Howat delegate to the Montreal convention of the A. F. of L., and elected all old officers. Delegates declare that this convention was a record breaker for attendance, harmony and enthusiasm.

OBJECTS TO CHEAP LABOR.

Cleburne, Texas, May 22.—The state federation of labor convention asked A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison "to advise congress that Mexican laborers brought to this state ostensibly for the purpose of assisting farmers, are being recruited by various interests to displace American labor, and are being employed by the oil interests to displace white labor, also by the packing houses, and thousands have been shipped north, all for the purpose of displacing Americans."

"Organized labor in Texas," the resolution says, "is desirous of having the maximum assistance rendered the farmers of Texas, but we do protest against using the need of the farmer as an excuse to flood this country with cheap labor."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Spokane, May 22.—The annual convention of the Washington state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning June 28.

The convention call refers to the anti-trade union campaign of cheap-labor employers who are demanding individual bargaining with their employes. Officers of the federation urge a full representation of the unions that a vigorous campaign may be outlined against employers who would destroy the unions and thereby dictate wages and working conditions.

SPECULATORS BLAMED.

Chicago, May 22.—High prices of ladies' garments are due to jobbers and speculators declared the convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. President Schlesinger was unanimously reelected.

SHOE WORKERS ADVANCE.

Brantford, Ontario, May 22.—Organized shoe workers in this city and vicinity report wage increases and improved working conditions.

WORLD CLAD IN SHODDY; VIRGIN WOOL IS STORED

Chicago, May 22.—The world wears shoddy wool, while storehouses are bursting with virgin wool, according to figures compiled by the national sheep and wool bureau of America. There are more than 1,265,000,000 pounds of virgin wool in the world's storehouses and this year's clip will increase these holdings.

In spite of the high price of wool fabrics, American storehouses contained 700,000,000 pounds of virgin wool last September, 10 months after the signing of the armistice, or 100,000,000 pounds more than the country's annual consumption.

The sheep and wool bureau is attempting to secure the passage of a "truth-in-fabric" bill, now pending in congress. The bill is designed to compel manufacturers to stamp "wool" cloth with the percentage of shoddy or cotton used in its manufacture. Shoddy is made from woolen rags.

"The reason huge stocks of virgin wool are now lying in storehouses unmanufactured," said Secretary Greene of the sheep and wool bureau, "is that the use of unidentified shoddy enables manufacturers to make more money.

"The purchaser buys his 'all wool' clothing without knowing that he is getting old rags respun, and pays virgin wool prices.

"Manufacturers should be compelled to come out in the open and tell what their goods are made of. Then people who want virgin wool, and are willing to pay for virgin wool, can get honest cloth, and goods made of shoddy will take its rightful place and price and can no longer masquerade as virgin wool, if the 'truth-in-fabric' bill is passed by congress."

WANT MOBBERS PUNISHED.

Phoenix, Ariz., May 22.—Arizona trade unionists are uneasy at the trend of events at Tombstone where Bisbee mobbers, who deported 1,200 workers in 1917, are on trial.

One of the mobbers has been acquitted and the other defendants have agreed to be tried as a whole, rather than as individuals. The copper controlled press of this state is stressing the cost to taxpayers as part of the campaign to have the cases dropped.

The defendants have several of the best known lawyers in the southwest, and officers of the state federation of labor asked County Attorney French, who is conducting the prosecution, if he will accept the services of an attorney of national reputation to assist him. The trade unionists informed the county prosecutor that they would appeal to the American trade union movement, if necessary, to bring the Bisbee mobbers to justice.

The county prosecutor replied that his office is "amply able to carry the fight through without additional counsel."

SHIP YARD STRIKER SHOT.

San Francisco, May 22.—Thomas Laughran, a member of the Boiler Makers' union, was shot and killed by an imported thug employed as a guard at the Union iron works. The shooting occurred half a mile from the plant. Laughran was shot when he refused to obey the guard's order to "move on." The entire trade union movement, including the 40,000 striking ship yard workers, are asking what right had the guard to control the movements of a resident of San Francisco on a public thoroughfare.

The strike is now in its eighth month. It was caused by the ship yard managers abrogating a wage agreement. It is stated that the ship yards are so thoroughly disorganized that they are unable to do even minor repair work.

UNION SHOP FOR BAKERS.

Kansas City, Mo., May 22.—Trade union recognition features a new wage agreement secured by Bakers' union No. 218. Wages are advanced and general working conditions improved.

Butte, Mont., May 22.—Organized bakers have affected a wage settlement with employers. Rates are advanced.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Taunton, Mass., May 22.—After a 10-days' strike in this city and in Watertown organized stove mounters raised wages 18 per cent on piece work and established a day rate of 75 cents an hour. The eight-hour day will prevail.

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

Peoria, Ill., May 22.—Refusal of the local street car company to increase wages of platform men resulted in a complete tie-up of that system. The men ask that rates of 41, 44 and 47 cents an hour be increased to 80, 83 and 85 cents.

WIRE WORKERS GAIN.

Toronto, Ontario, May 22.—Strikes between the local Bell Telephone company and Electrical Workers' union No. 353 will be minimized because of a new agreement which raises rates and makes complete provision for the adjustment of disputes.

BRITISH SOLDIERY ON VOLUNTARY BASIS

Washington, May 22.—In the senate Mr. Gronna called attention to the announcement that Great Britain has abandoned the principle of compulsory military service and has returned to the purely voluntary system.

Senator Gronna expressed the hope that the American congress "will take the same step which the empire of Great Britain has taken and will not impose upon this government a military autocracy."

"It is needless for me to call the attention of the senate," he said, "to the fact that there is not one single government on the face of the earth today that has withstood a military autocracy. Greece had it. Persia had it. Germany had it. Before Germany, Sweden had it. They were all, if not reduced to a small nation, destroyed. The military government of Germany has been entirely destroyed.

"Mr. President, we are proceeding in this country, as I understand it, intending to place everything under the army, to educate the farmer, to educate everyone in the industries under the war department, ignoring all the other executive departments. We have an agricultural department, and yet it is well understood now that already we are trying to place the farmers of the country under military autocracy."

Senator Gronna's statement was based on a recent speech made by the British king, in which he said:

"No more valuable proof of our peaceful strength and the soundness of our national life and character could be given to the world than the fact that we have abandoned the principle of military service, to which we were forced to resort in the hard times of the war, and have returned to the purely voluntary system."

HIGH DEMAGOGUE SCORED.

Jackson, Tenn., May 22.—Governor Roberts' ears probably tingled when he read a resolution passed by the annual convention of the state federation of labor. The state executive failed to uphold law when John Lawson, representing the organized street car men, was kidnapped from Nashville last November, and the state unionists said:

"During the past two years a constant and persistent propaganda has been preached, in season and out of season, on every bustings in Tennessee, exciting the classes against the masses, in organizations of so-called law and order leagues, the sole purpose of which, to us, seems to be the suppression of labor unions and reducing the wage workers of this commonwealth to a state of serfdom.

"The great apostle and chief mentor of this movement appears to us to be the present governor of Tennessee, A. H. Roberts, who must be judged by his acts of omission as well as commission; whose silence when a representative of organized labor was kidnapped from the shadow of the capitol by officers of the law, in defiance of the constitutional guarantees thrown around every person in Tennessee, was, and is, construed by us and all right thinking citizens as giving his approval to a state of anarchy."

WANT FIREMEN OUSTED.

San Antonio, Texas, May 22.—Failing to disrupt the union of fire fighters, charges are now preferred by the fire chief against six captains and two firemen. Their discharge is requested "for the good of the service."

One of the captains is charged with two offenses. He permitted "some unknown person to play the part of a crazy woman about the fire station in which he was in charge, severely frightening a boy." The other reason is that he "delivered a note to the assistant fire chief, a note written on a soiled piece of paper, contrary to the regulations, which provides for clean paper when communications are sent to superior officers."

SHAM PATRIOTS SCORED.

Spokane, May 22.—The attempt of the Employers' association to conceal anti-trade union opposition by calling it "the American plan" was condemned by United States Deputy District Attorney Leavey, in an address to the central labor council.

He said the "American plan" of the employers is an unwarrantable misuse of the word "American" and he urged the unions to conduct a vigorous campaign against the untruthful statements of the employers.

MUCH OIL IN MEXICO.

Washington, May 22.—There is sufficient oil in Mexico to meet the requirements of the United States for many years, reports the federal bureau of mines. Immense oil fields also exist in Latin-American countries that border the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea.

MILL WORKERS GAIN.

Chicago, May 22.—A strike of 3,000 organized mill carpenters has been adjusted. Wages are advanced to $1.10 an hour.

TRADE UNION STATESMANSHIP INSPIRES ORGANIZED WORKERS

Washington, May 22.—"The spirit that made the defeat of kaiserism possible is not dead; we are using it against American autocrats," writes one trade unionist to the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee.

This sentiment applies to every section of the country. Trade unionists are determined to use their organized balance of power this fall and cast a non-partisan ballot against defenders of reaction.

Local trade union non-partisan committees are in constant communication with the A. F. of L. committee. The latter has almost an entire floor of the A. F. of L. building devoted to the compiling of records of senators and congressmen, forwarding same to local and central bodies, preparing and circulating literature, answering correspondence and aiding local committees wherever possible.

Vast quantities of literature have already been issued by the national committee. The A. F. of L. reconstruction declarations and the A. F. of L. political demands strike such fundamental notes as free speech, press and assemblage; right to organize and collective bargaining through representatives of the workers' selection; opposition to militarism and the labor injunction; tax on land held for speculation; election of federal judges; Rochdale co-operative system; credits is a social function and should be controlled by a public agency rather than to enrich financiers; deflation of currency and credits; government ownership or control of railroads; nation's water power must not pass into private hands; government aid to home building.

The above declarations answer the charge of labor's opponents that the workers demand special privilege. This is the old "stop thief" cry of those who sense danger to their special privileges.

These declarations have no double meaning. They treat of questions that the workers of today are interested in. They are constructive statesmanship and are a contrast to the word wizardy of vote-catching efforts by platform makers of the old school.

The organized workers note the difference. They realize that the great trade union movement is more than a wage movement; that it enters into every human relation, and that it can cope with every force that stands against a brighter day and a higher development.

Another pamphlet that is widely circulated by the A. F. of L. national committee is entitled "Forty Years of Action." It summarizes the non-partisan political declarations by the A. F. of L. since its inception in 1881, and refutes the claim that any group of officials is responsible for present policies. This pamphlet quotes history to show that the trade union movement has consistently maintained that our movement is essentially economic; that its guarantees political freedom to every member, and that all it assumes is to urge workers to cast an independent ballot in the interest of justice and humanity.

FAVORS SHORT HOURS.

Washington, May 22. — United States Senator Thomas of Colorado criticizes trade unions and their demand for a short workday, but the Colorado lawmaker is not averse to short hours himself. Last Saturday Senator Stirling attempted to have the senate consider the conference report on the retirement bill and the Congressional Record reports:

"Mr. Thomas—Mr. President, I do not intend to interpose any captious objection to the consideration of the conference report, but I am inclined to think that the senate has done enough for this week and should not be required to consider additional legislation before Monday. For that reason, and for that reason only, I shall object to the consideration of the conference report today.

"The vice president—The senator from South Dakota did not ask unanimous consent for the consideration of the conference report, but moved that the senate proceed to its consideration.

"Mr. Thomas—Very well. Then I move that the senate adjourn."

The senate rejected the motion to adjourn, and then Senator Thomas attempted to block consideration of the report by raising a no-quorum point of order. Again he was defeated. Then he consumed time debating another question until the senate finally adjourned without discussing the report, which was adopted the following Monday.

KILLERS NOT INDICTED.

Bogalusa, La., May 22.—A grand jury has failed to indict any one in connection with the killing of five trade unionists at this place last November. A strike was on against the Great Southern Lumber company at the time. The strikers refused to divide on racial lines and a posse of gun men began a search for a colored worker of good reputation, who was influential among his fellows. The colored man hid in the swamps and escaped to New Orleans with the assistance of the white workers. The next day a fleet of automobiles, loaded with armed thugs and company men, drove up to the union headquarters and demanded "that nigger." The unionists denied that they were concealing the colored man, and asked the leaders of the posse to come into their headquarters. This was answered by a volley from shot guns, rifles and revolvers. The fusilade resulted in the death of five trade unionists.

NO HAND PICKED JUDGES.

Albany, N. Y., May 22.—Governor Smith has defeated the plan to have a few men select judges in this state. In vetoing the Walton-Fearon bill he said this proposal would have the effect of lifting nominations for the office of justice of the supreme court out of the direct primary system and substitute party conventions. The governor's veto message said:

"One of the briefs filed with me in favor of this bill says, 'judicial office is one which requires of the candidate a special fitness, which can be best discussed among the small number of representative persons.' With that I am obliged to disagree. The fitness of any candidate for any office can best be discussed by all the members of the party which makes the nomination. It is infinitely better for the state that every candidate, particularly a candidate for a place in the judiciary, receive his nomination at the hands of a majority of the voters of his party, than through the favor of the few."

CLERGYMEN UNITE.

London, England, May 22.—The National Clerical union has been organized for the purpose of securing a living wage for the clergy. Rev. Lloyd Evans, who is acting secretary of the new movement, said:

"The members of the Clerical union have no intention of declaring a strike to enforce any of their demands, but will follow the trend of trade unionism to a considerable extent."

Secretary Evans declared that the only remedy for low salaries and poor conditions which the clergymen are forced to accept is a strong organization, and if this were backed by public opinion, their demands would soon be obtained.

TAX BRITISH WAR WEALTH.

Washington, May 22.—The proposal to tax war wealth as a means of reducing the public debt is opposed in this country. Bankers and corporate interests declare the plan is confiscatory and Secretary of the Treasury Houston says it would dislocate business.

The war wealth taxation committee of the British house of commons, however, is giving serious consideration to the project.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Jackson, Mich., May 22.—A wage rate of 85 cents an hour has been established by Carpenters' union No. 651.

RAILROAD CRISIS LOOMS.

Chicago, May 22. — Immediate consideration must be given railroad employes' demand for wage increases to meet exactions of profiteers, said Timothy Shea, acting president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, before the railroad labor board.

"The railroad workers must have relief, and they must be given relief at once," said the brotherhood executive, who declared that a crisis impends. "I am making no threats," he said, "but simply stating facts.

"One great trouble with the American people is that they never believe that anything disagreeable is going to happen. They wouldn't believe that we were going to get into the world war until we were in it up to our ears. More recently they refused to believe that there would be a steel strike or a coal strike until those industrial disorders were upon us. Now, apparently, they refuse to believe that the railroad situation is absolutely critical. The steel strike cost the country half a billion dollars at a comparative estimate, and the coal strike half as much more. Both could have been averted. The lesson in the present situation is obvious."

Mr. Shea said that a comparison of earnings for eight hours of labor showed locomotive firemen ranked seventy-seventh in the list of the various occupations and industries for which authoritative data are available. Only nine occupations have a lower scale than the firemen, he said.

LABOR MEN RESIGN.

New York, May 22.—Because the inter-racial council favors repealing the literacy test section of the immigration law, John Golden and John P. Frey have resigned from that organization. The former is international president of the United Textile Workers of America and the latter is editor of the Molders' Journal.

The unionists intimate that the inter-racial council is operated in the interest of employers. In referring to the conference which acted on the literacy test, the unionists say that "throughout the whole session the wishes of practically only one party was heard, and these were not only against any control of immigration in the future, but for the repeal of the few restrictions now in existence.

"We cannot give our countenance or indorsement to the program which the inter-racial council has recently adopted, a program which would, in addition to resulting injuriously to the workers of our own country, fail to provide any adequate rule for the regulation of immigration."

GERMAN ELECTION IN JUNE.

Berlin, Germany, May 22.—Elections for the national assembly will be held June 6. Every German male and female citizen, 21 years of age, is a voter. Under the kaiser's régime, with suffrage restricted to men, 14,442,000 votes were cast at the reichstag elections of 1912. With women voting last year 30,400,344 Ballots were cast.

The national assembly has enacted the railroad nationalization law, making the railroads the property of the people of Germany. Under the kaiser the roads were largely owned by the states making up the empire. The railroad employes supported the nationalization project.

H. C. OF L. IN 13 CITIES.

Washington, May 22.—The United States bureau of labor statistics has issued a statement on the cost of living in 13 industrial centers in the United States from December, 1917, to December, 1919.

Atlanta has increased 37.89 per cent; Birmingham, 34.32 per cent; Cincinnati, 25.24 per cent; Denver, 35.19 per cent; Indianapolis, 26.53 per cent; Kansas City, Mo., 38.14 per cent; Memphis, 35.23 per cent; Minneapolis, 32.71 per cent; New Orleans, 33.86 per cent; Pittsburg, 26.17 per cent; Richmond, 32.02 per cent; St. Louis, 24.24 per cent; Scranton, 27.10 per cent.

LABOR NOT SLOWING DOWN.

New York, May 22.—Charges that labor is slowing down, and that it is inefficient are untrue, according to Dr. John Whyte, who conducted a research for the national association of credit men. A questionnaire was sent to manufacturers and 189 replied. The replies contradict the inefficiency charge that is parroted by every advocate of anti-strike legislation, every profiteer and every trade union opponent.

ANTI-UNIONISTS BUMPED.

Dallas, Texas, May 22.—Anti-trade unionists were given a hard bump when practically every electrical contractor in this city withdrew from the non-union shop association and signed an agreement with the organized electrical workers.